

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are all the claims pending in the present application, new claims 19-23 having been added as indicated herein. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Hunt, C. et al., Windows NT TCP/IP NA, O'Reilly publishing, October 1998, (herein referred to as Hunt).

§112, second paragraph, Rejections - Claims 1-18

The Examiner rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because the term "interest" renders the claims indefinite as the term allegedly lacks specificity and is thus unclear. Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Applicant does not believe that the use of the term "interest" renders the claims indefinite, as "interest" can define a feeling that accompanies or causes special attention to an object. For example, as recited in claim 1, one operation involves detecting, on the basis of a user's history of access requests, the extent of a user's interest, or, for example, the extent of the user's special attention to the information to be provided. At least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the term "interest" is not indefinite.

If the Examiner insists on maintaining this rejection, Applicant kindly requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned in an effort to discuss and resolve this issue.

§102(b) Rejections (Hunt) - Claims 1-18

The Examiner rejects claims 1-18 over Hunt based on the reasons set forth on pages 2-9 of the present Office Action.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant submits that Hunt does not disclose or suggest at least, “detecting, on the basis of user’s history of access requests, the extent of user’s interest in the information to be provided and/or changes in the interest,” as recited in claim 1. The Examiner cites section 12.6 of Hunt as well as figures 12-4, 12-5, and 12-6, as allegedly satisfying the above-quoted feature of claim 1. However, section 12.6 only relates to monitoring network security by examining event logs of individual systems on the network in an effort to detect unusual activity on a system. Using the event logs, a network administrator, for example, can know what activity is normal, and can develop a feel for how things should be in order to know when something is not normal. However, nowhere does Hunt disclose or suggest detecting the extent of a user’s interest in the information to be provided and/or changes in the interest. Even though, through an audit procedure, Hunt may involve knowledge of a user’s history of access requests, nowhere does Hunt disclose or suggest detecting the extent of a user’s interest and/or changes in the interest based on the user’s history of a request.

Further, because Hunt does not disclose or suggest the above-quoted feature, clearly Hunt does not disclose or suggest allowing the level of access permission currently assigned to the user to be changed to another level according to the detected extent of the user’s interest and/or changes in the interest. At least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that Hunt does not anticipate independent claim 1.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-13 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 1.

Applicant submits that independent claims 14-18 are patentable at least based on reasons similar to those set forth in independent claim 1.¹

Further, with respect to dependent claims 3 and 8, because Hunt does not disclose or suggest detecting an extent of a user's interest and/or changes in that interest, clearly the invention disclosed in Hunt would not determine when the detected extent of a user's interest and/or changes in that interest meet predetermined conditions.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 5, the Examiner cites the password aging section of Hunt as allegedly satisfying the features set forth in claim 5. However, nowhere does Hunt disclose or suggest asking the user as the source of the access request to update the identification information when the detected extent of the user's interest and/or changes in the interest indicate that the number of times an access is requested, exceeds a predetermined number of times. That is, Hunt does not disclose a determination that the number of times an access is requested exceeds a predetermined number of times.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 7, Applicant submits that Hunt does not disclose or suggest, "assigning each user, in exchange for entries of information related to the user, identification information for identifying the user and a level of access permission defined according to the contents of the information entered," as recited in claim 7. The Examiner cites section 12.4.3 of Hunt as allegedly satisfying the above-quoted limitation. However, section 12.4.3 only deals with password aging. That is, when a password reaches the end of its designated lifetime, the password aging mechanism, according to Hunt, notifies the user to

¹ Applicant amends claims 16-18 for clarification purposes, as indicated herein.

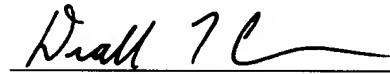
change the password. Nowhere, however, does this particular section disclose or suggest assigning each user identification information in exchange for entries of information related to the user. Hunt discusses the user entering preferred identification information, however, Hunt does not disclose assigning each user identification information in exchange for entries of information related to the user.

Finally, Applicant adds new claims 19-23 to provide a varying scope of coverage. Applicant submits that these new claims are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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